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Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02206 122210Z

64
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07

SWF-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01

/083 W
---------- 105341
R 122100Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8366
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
MMCONSUL MELBOURNE 171
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2206

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NZ
SUBJ: FARRELL LINES FIGURES IN REPORT ON PORT UNION DIFFICULTIES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A STATEMENT BY FARRELL SHIPPING COMPANY NEW YORK OFFICE CONCERNING ATTEMPTS BY WATERSIDER UNION TO SECURE COMPENSATORY PAYMENT IN RETURN FOR REMOVAL OF BLACK BAN WAS CARRIED AS PART OF A JULY 11 RADIO AND TV REPORT ON SHIPPING DELAYS IN NZ PORTS. PRESS ALSO PICKED UP STORY WHICH COULD RESULT IN DISCRIMINATORY UNION ACTION AGAINST FARRELL AND FURTHER EXACERBATE FARRELL NZ OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FARRELL LINES SHIP, THEI LTRAL ENSIGN, ARRIVED AUCKLAND MID-JUNE AND ENCOUNTERED DELAY DUE TO WATER-FRONT STOPPAGE. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE EXPENSE OF DELAY SHE PROCEEDED ON TO WELLINGTON, HER NEXT PORT, AND ARRANGED FOR HER AUCKLAND CARGO TO BE FREIGHTED OVERLAND. AT REQUEST OF AUCKLAND WATERSIDERS THE WELLINGTON WATERSIDERS DECLARED VESSEL "BLACK" AND REFUSED TO WORK HER.
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 02206 122210Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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3. ACCORDING TO RAY FLECK, FARRELL LINES OWNERS' REPRE-
SENTATIVE IN WELLINGTON UNION, REPS REFUSED
DISCUSS SITUATION WITH FARRELL. FLECK REQUESTED GOOD
OFFICES OF PARLIAMENTARY UNDERSECRETARY FOR LABOUR,
ISBEY. FLECK INFORMED COMATT THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS
ISBEY RELAYED OFFER PRESUMABLY MADE BY UNION TO
REMOVE WELLINGTON BLACK BAN IF FARRELL WOULD WRITE LETTER
OF APOLOGY TO UNION AND MAKE PAYMENT TO UNION FOR FIVE
SHIFTS OF MISSED WORK IN AUCKLAND. FLECK REFUSED. SUB-
SEQUENTLY SUGGESTION WAS MADE THROUGH ISBEY THAT A TOKEN
PAYMENT BE MADE TO UNION HOSPITAL COMFORTS FUND. THIS
OFFER ALSO REFUSED AND PROBLEM ONLY RESOLVED BY RETURN
OF SHIP TO AUCKLAND FOR CARGO HANDLING. COST FOR TIME
VESSEL TYING IDLE IN BOTH PORTS WAS APPROX
DOLS 13,000 PER DAY.

4. FLECK REPORTED DETAILS OF INCIDENT TO HIS NEW YORK
OFFICE. THIS WAS APPARENTLY BASIS FOR FARRELL STATEMENT
IN NEW YORK DURING INTERVIEW WITH NZ BROADCASTING
CORPORATION REPORTER. STORY RELEASED ON RADIO AND TV
EVENING JULY 11 AND CARRIED AS FRONT PAGE HEAFFNE ARTICLE
MORNING JULY 12. PAPER ALSO CARRIED DENIAL BY ISBEY
THAT HE HAD PROPOSED LARGE CASH PAYMENT TO AUCKLAND
WATERSIDERS TO LIFT SHIP BAN WITH ADDED COMMENT THAT HE
WAS INSTRUCTING HIS LAWYER TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF
LIBEL.

5. EVIDENTLY TV PROGRAM CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO ISBEY
WHO INFORMED DCM AND LABATT JULY 2 THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
NZBC WAS WORKING ON STORY. AT THAT TIME ISBEY INDICATED
HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING UNFAIRLY ACCUSED OF TAKING PART
IN A SHAKEDOWN WHEN, AS HE SAW IT, HE WAS ONLY ACTING
AS A MEDIATOR TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO A DIFFICULT
PROBLEM.

6. WATERSIDE WORKERS ONE OF NZ'S STRONGEST AND MOST COHESIVE
UNIONS. IF THEY FEEL FARRELL UNFAIRLY MALIGNED THEM
THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT LINE WILL ENCOUNTER MORE DIFFI-
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CULTY IN LOCAL PORTS. AUSTRAL ENDURANCE AT PRESENT
BERTHED AUCKLAND AND DUE TO START WORKING CARGO TODAY.
ACTION OF WATERSIDERS WITH RESPECT TO THIS SHIP COULD WELL
INDICATE WHETHER FARRELL MIGHT EXPECT MORE UNION DIFFI-
CULTIES IN ITS NZ OPERATION. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS.
SELDEN

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CARGO HANDLING, BOYCOTTS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, PORTS
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Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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